

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 28, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRIGHT made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of H. M. Salomon, "for indemnification for advances of money made by his father during the revolutionary war," have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

Haym Salomon, the father of the memorialist, and a native of Poland, resided in this country prior to the war of the revolution, as appears from the statement of his son, and made himself so conspicuous as an advocate of the cause of American liberty that he was thrown into prison by the authority of the British crown, in New York. He, however, managed in a short time to escape from the confinement, and repaired to Philadelphia, where he established himself in business, and afforded great facilities with his money and credit to those who had charge of the fiscal concerns of the American government. In addition to the aid furnished by him in negotiating the subsidies advanced in behalf of this country by France and other European powers, he is said to have been eminently useful to many of the public men, whom the pecuniary embarrassments of the time had reduced to needy circumstances. An example of this kind is cited in the memorial before your committee, in which Mr. Madison is quoted as having said, in a letter to a friend, that he "had been a pensioner for some time on the favor of Haym Salomon."

According to the statement of the memorialist, the advances on the part of his father for the use of the government, amounted to \$300,000, independently of what he gave to distinguished individuals on their own accounts. In proof of which he refers to the copy of an extract filed with the papers from the inventory of the personal property of Haym Salomon, made soon after his death, in 1783, from which it appears that the amount of public securities and obligations, held by him when he died, was \$353,744. It would seem that the original representations of these liabilities were taken possession of by a person, then a member from Pennsylvania, and a person who represented himself to be the treasurer of that State, and have never since been seen, with the exception of some which

were left with ex-President Tyler for examination, enclosed in a box, which was lost while in his possession.

The memorialist now asks, to be indemnified in the sum above named, with interest from the date of his father's death, as he says that the family of the deceased have never received any portion of the amount.

Your committee are disposed to believe that the father of the memorialist has been of good service to the prominent men of the day in which he lived, but without intending to decide on the general merits of the claim now set up, are of opinion that however great the merits may be, Congress could not be justified in making any appropriation as asked, in the present condition of the testimony, as it appears on file.

In support of a demand on the national treasury, amounting, in principal alone, to nearly half a million of dollars, there have been presented, independently of the statement of the claimant, but two documents which bear the slightest impress of authority as testimony.

In the first place we have the extract from the inventory of personal estate of Haym Salomon. This document is made up of a list of treasury certificates, 19 in number, to which no numbers are attached, amounting in all to \$18,259 50; then comes, under the head of "State money and State certificates" items amounting to less than \$10,000, and then an entry of "Continental liquidated debts," of various dates, amounting to \$199,214 45, to which are to be added \$17,870 37 in State obligations, and 58 loan office certificates, with the prefixes of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, amounting to \$110,233 65.

Nor is this all. The extract is sworn to, it is true, by a clerk in the probate office, before an alderman, ex-officio justice of the peace, of whose official character there is no attestation, under the seal of a court, as should have been the case.

The next piece of evidence is a statement by the cashier of the Bank of North America, not under oath, detailing certain entries in the ledger of that bank; from which it appears that Haym Salomon and R. Morris, the financier of the government, kept account in that institution, and professes to show what appropriations were made of certain sums, therein mentioned. The writer says: "The offices or functions which I here state to have been filled by the foreign gentleman above named, are not stated in the books of the bank, but Mr. H. M. Salomon assures me are to be seen by the historical records in," and then comes the names of the books referred to; thus showing conclusively that the statement cannot be regarded as a copy from the ledger, strictly speaking.

Accompanying the two documents above mentioned, it is true, an index containing thirty-two references to pieces of testimony, in print and in manuscript, none of which, with the exceptions before named, and a calculation of interest by the clerk of the register of the treasury, have been placed in the hands of the committee.

Such is the evidence upon which your committee has been re-

quired to form a judgment, in a matter involving, if interest be included, about two millions of dollars, and growing out of the most difficult and involved portion of the financial history of the country.

No testimony is offered to show what became of the original evidences of obligation on the part of the State or federal government; none to show whether they had been destroyed or presented for payment, and if presented whether they had been accepted or refused.

So far as your committee is concerned, no proofs have been adduced to establish the relation between the claimant's father and the government, or the authority on which he felt himself at liberty to act in the capacity of its banker or agent.

The references in the index may, it is true, throw some light on the subject, but in the opinion of your committee, it is not a part of their duty to run after testimony or hunt up proofs for individual claimants, nor would such occupation be consistent with their duties to the country at large.

Under these circumstances the committee deem the evidence insufficient to warrant them in forming an opinion on the righteousness of the present claim, and recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution.

Resolved, That the claim of Haym M. Salomon is not sustained by the testimony therewith filed.

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evidence of obligation on the part of the State or Federal govern-
ment, none to show whether they had been destroyed or presented
for payment, and it is suggested whether they had been accepted or
refused.

So far as your committee is concerned, no proofs have been ad-
duced to establish the relation between the claimant's father and the
government, or the authority on which he felt himself at liberty
to act in the capacity of the master of a ship.
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the subject, but in the opinion of your committee, it is not a part
of their duty to run after testimony of such up proofs for individ-
ual claimants, nor would such occupation be consistent with their
duties to the country at large.

Under these circumstances the committee deem the evidence in-
sufficient to warrant them in forming an opinion on the propriety
of the present claim, and recommend the rejection of the same
without further action.
It is said that the claim of Henry M. Jackson is not sustained
by the testimony therewith filed.

The committee have also considered the claim of Henry M. Jackson
and find it to be unsupported by the evidence presented.

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